

LI congressmen seek inclusion in New England fishing region

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SAYVILLE, N.Y. (AP) _ Two Long Island congressmen said Tuesday they will introduce legislation making Long Island fishermen part of the New England Fisheries Management Council, a move that would give the local anglers a voice in policy decisions affecting their business.

Currently, Long Island fishermen are under the jurisdiction of the Mid-Atlantic Council, even though they frequently work in waters that are considered part of New England, said Reps. Steve Israel and Tim Bishop.

The councils are responsible for setting fishing regulations in the region.

The two Democrats want Long Islanders to have dual representation, a situation they said currently exists in other states like North Carolina, Oregon and Washington.

"When it comes to having input into important federal decisions on commercial fishing, New York is left high and dry," Israel said. "Our legislation will give local fishermen a voice."

Bishop said the legislation does "not seek to give New York fishermen an advantage, but we demand a level playing field."

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